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spective hands a particular account of all Fines and forfeitures & c to the said Attorney General.

February 21, 1682.

John Buckner called before the Lord Culpeper and his Council for Printing the Laws of 1680 without his Excellency's License and he and the Printer order to enter into Bond in 100£ not to print any thing thereafter until his Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

Davis and others Plant Cutters petition the Governor setting forth the Hardships they undergo in Prison.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

DISSENTERS PETITION,* ALBEMARLE, AMHERST AND BUCKINGHAM—NOVEMBER 9th, 1776.

Ref'd to Comm. upon the State of the County—

To the Honourable, the Delegates and Senators, Representatives of the several Counties and Corporations of the Commonwealth of Virginia, assembled at the City of Williamsburg.

The Memorial & Petition of the Desenters from the Church of England and others in the Counties of Albemarle, Amherst & Buckenham, humbly sheweth.

* The best annotation of these religious petitions is Dr. Eckenrode's admirable work *The Separation of Church and State in Virginia*.

That your Memorialists have never been on an equal Footing with the other good people of this Colony in respect of religious Priviledges, having been obliged by Law, to contribute to the support of the Established Church, while at the same Time, they were moved from a Principle of Conscience to support that Church of which they called themselves members; Yet, in as much as this was the Form of Government established, either when they came into the Colony, or being natives, when they became Disenters from the Church of England for the sake of good order, they have patiently submitted to their Grievances, continuing to be peaceable & loyal subjects, always ready & willing to stand up with the foremost in the support of Government, & in the Defence of the just Right & Property of the subjects.

That when it became necessary that the Form of Government should be new moddled, in consequence of our having thrown off our Dependance on the Crown & Parliment of great Britan, your Memorialists flattered themselves, that, that Form of Governmint, that w'd secure just and equal Right to the subject would be the chance of every Individual, hath from the Consideration of the justice & good Policy that would be contained in it, and also from the Consideration, that by the joint and strenous Endeavours of every one, our Liberty, our all must be defended against the unjust Violaters thereof and that therefore all should enjoy equal Priviledge—

That your Memorialists cannot disguise their real concern to observe, that instead hereof there are many who are still violent for a reestablishment of the Episcopal Church and to have been informed that there are sundry Petitions about to be preferred to the undersigned by the Bulk of the People, nor can they forbear signifying to this Honourable House there sence of the great Injustice contained in the establishment of any one religious Denomination of People, worshipping the same God, and all struggling in the same common cause in Preference of all others, and that all and every other religious Sectary should be obliged to contribute to the

support of that Church thus established, while it is with the greatest Difficulty that they can support Publick Worship in that way and manner that they rather choose.

Your Memorialist judge, however, that they may rest quite easy on referring it to the known Wisdom, Candour, & Integrity of this Honourable House, how far such Petitions should be heard and granted, and also how far such a mode of Government should be established.

Your Memorialists conceive, that to put every religious Denomination on an equal Footing, to be supported by themselves, independent of one another, would not only be a just and reasonable mode of Government, but would most certainly have an happy Influence of the greater Purity of the several Churches; on their more free and friendly Inter-course with one another; on suppressing anything like Feuds, and animosities amongst the People, and on warmly attaching all of every Denomination to Government. Such a mode of Government is all that your Memorialists Desire, and what they pray this Honourable House for, nor can they doubt of obtaining this, or any other reasonable Request from a Body so respectable, who, they trust, have the equal Happiness of their Constituents in particular and the Commonwealth, in general, as their highest motives.

That all propitious Heaven may Inspire this Honourable House with wisdom equal to the Importance of the Business devolved on them, & that this Commonwealth may become the Invy of the Nations & the Glory of the world, shall ever be the ardent wish of your Memorialists & humble Petitioners.

Chas. Lewis Jun'r
John Coles
Tucker Woodson Jr.
Thos. Napier
Charles L. Lewis

Alex'r Maccay
John Harris
Thos. Bengé
Robert Harris
Hugh Hill Morris

Chas. Lewis N. G.	William Rogers
Charles Hudson	Jesse Melton
Bennett Henderson	Jacob Moon
James Stephenson	Charles Daniel
Isham Lewis	Robert Hardee
Chas. Wingfield,	Martin Brannen
George Gilmer	Edward Carter
George Divers	Natt Morris
Benage Gentry	Thos. Baber Jun'r.
Benjamin Lacy	William Gooch
Philip Mazzei	Abraham Eads
Samuel Dedman	Absamlem McQuery
Nathaniel Haggard	Nat Henderson
Thos. Garth,	His
William Wotson	James X Woods
David Garth	mark
Reuben Melton	John Montgomery
John Melton	Benjamin Moor
Alex. Gordon	Martin Keyser
John Jones	Lawrence Suddarth
James Dudley,	Benjamin Hendison
John Statham	Andrew Spradly
Charles Statham	Thomas Landrum
John Wingfield	Samuel Luthrell
Thos. Pemberton	Joseph Tucker
Hierom Gaines	Henry Harper
James Kerr	Andrew Smith
John Woodson	Thomas Smith
Jeremiah Cleveland	Thos. Shannon
Cotton Bengé	John Crow
Samuel Sheets	John Shields, Jn'r.
Henry Ford	John Campbell
Mallekiah Brannem	Langdon Dapriest
Isaac Pue	John Martin
Walter Leak	

PETITION OF DISSENTERS OF TUSCARORA* CONGREGATION, &C.,
BERKELEY COUNTY, 1776.

A Petition.

To The Honourable the Speaker & House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Humble Petition of the Dissenters from the Ecclesiastical Establishment of Tuscarora Congregation Berkly County. Humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners being in common with the other Inhabitants of this Commonwealth, delivered from British Oppression, rejoice in the prospect of having their Freedom maintained to them & Posterity inviolate: The hopes of your Petitioners have been raised & confirmed by the Declaration of your Hon'ble House in the last article of rights which we beg leave to recite viz: "That Religion or the Duty we owe to our creator, & the manner of discharging it can be directed only by reason & conviction, not by force or Violence; & therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of Religion according to the Dictates of conscience & that it is the mutual Duty of all to practise christian forbearance, Love, & charity towards each other." It will hence inavoidably follow that no Laws which are indefensible & incompatible with the rights of conscience should be suffered to remain unrepealed for if it be proper that such rights should be possessed in any extent, it is also proper there should be a legal security for the possession of them; & that they may not be trampled upon thro' the possible caprices of men in power, or some unaccountable turn in the sentiments of the public, Tho y'r Petitioners would not be understood to insinuate that there is at present any likelihood of such an infringem't yet we humbly conceive the rights of human Nature (& religious Liberty in its fullest extent is one of

*Tuscarora was one of the earliest Presbyterian Churches in Frederick county. It first appears in ecclesiastical records about 1760, but tradition assigns it an earlier origin.

these) should never lie at the mercy of any; but on the contrary should have every protection & Ground of security which Law & the Policy of free states can give them—

The Ecclesiastical Establishment is what your Petitioners have ever looked upon as a grievous Burden & inconsistent with the rights of humanity either civil or religious, in as-much as the supporting it while we cannot approve it, is in our humble opinion, an infringement on our civil Property, as well as our conscience.

May it therefore please your Honourable House that the Ecclesiastical Establishment may be suspended or laid aside. Or your Petitioners otherwise relieved from the Burden thereof; and your Petitioners shall ever Pray—

Wm. Patterson	Geo Scott
Hugh Vance	Jas Morrison
Hugh Lyle	Robt. Faris
Dougall Campbell	Sam'l Carson
Jno. Snodgrass Sen'r.	Wm. Baxter
Jno McClean	Robt. Lyle
Jno. McConnell	Hugh Lyle Jun'r.
Thos. Lenox	David Andrews
Jas. Miller	Jno. Snodgrass Jun'r.
David Miller Jun'r.	Jas. Waddle
Absalom Miller	Hugh Miller
Moses Andrews	Jno. Millan
Jno. Wilson	Samuel Eakin
Mat'w Rippy	Jno Ewing
David Miller	Wm. Mathews
Duncan Campbell	Joseph McCay
Jno. Lyle	Thos. McCay
Jno. Hanna	Joseph Wilson
Wm. Hanna	Jno. Roney
Jno. Daniel	Mat'w Duncan
Edw'd Heard	Robt. Messer
Jno. Hart	John Messer
Saml. Park	Jas. Messer

Jno. Park	Jas Park
Gilbert McCoun	Jas. Wright
Robt. Allen	Jas. Robinson
Alexd'r Mcilhatten	Matt'w Emberson
Wm. McConnell	Zachariah Murray
Jno. Fulton	Sam'l Frazer
Jas Donnachy	Sam'l Stewart
Jno. Lowrie	Jno. Stewart
Jas. Campbell	David Finley
And'w McDonald	Wm. Smith
Wm. McDonald	Thos. Kennedy
James McDonald	Wm. Patterson Jun'r.
Jno. Miller Sen'r.	Joseph Mitchell
Wm. Glen	Robt. Watt.
Wm. Buchanan	Wm. Porterfield
Alex'dr Buchanan	Wm. Porterfield Jun'r.
Jno. Campbell	Joseph Heard
Jno. Miller	Hugh Calbraith
Robt. Campbell	David Hunter
Jno. Reily	Jas Duncan
Wm. Manford Jun'r	Robt. Curghton
Sam'l Wilson	Roger Barton
James McCrery	Hugh Gray
William Snodgrass	Wm. Park
Thos. Eakin	Wm. Park Jun'r.
Robt. Eakin	Jno. Morrow
Wm. Eakin	

Back Creek Cong'n

David Faris	Wm. Erwin
Jno Doke	Joseph Erwin
Wm. Faris	John Jackson
Robt. Snodgrass	Jas. Winning
And'w Yeat	Jas. Lowrie
Robt. Stewart	Wm. Boggs
Robt. Jackson	Wm. Boggs Jun'r
Jno. Kenedy	Wm. Johnson

Jno. Harper	Wm. Long
Edw'd Magner	Jas. Kerr
Jno. Shields	Thos. Lawson
Jas. Lowrie	Jas. Lawson
Jas. Robinson	Jno. Harper Jun'r
Alex'r Robinson	Jos. Harper
Jno. Moor	Jno. Grey
Dan'l Kenedy	Wm. Grey
Robt. Dunn	Eliegn Grey
And'w Dunn	Josias Renolds
Robt. McCall	Jonathan Rose
Robt. Kenedy	Wm. Knox
Thos. Sharp	Garrett Enix
Sam'l Kenedy	Wm. Knox Jun'r.
Jno. Murphy	Jno. Magner
Thos. Hamilton	Henry Magner
Valentine Murphy	Alex'rd Caldwell
Jno. Murphy Jun'r	Wm. Reed

PETITION OF ALBEMARLE AND AMHERST DISSENTERS.

Dissenters Petn.

1776.

Refd. to Comm. of Religion.

To the Honourable the Delegates & Senators, Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Virginia, assembled at the
city of Williamsburg—

The Memorial & Petition of the Descenders from the
church of England & others, in the Counties of Albemarle,
and Amherst, humbly sheweth.

[The language of this petition is exactly similar to that
from Albemarle, Amherst and Buckingham, (*ante*), and a
number of the signers are the same.]

Charles Lewis	Robt. M'Collock
Charles Lewis Jun'r.	Thos. Eads
Jno. Cole	Thos. Harral
Geo. Gilmore	Wm. Hibbits
John Marks	William Hibbits Junr.
Bennet Henderson	Thomas Hibbits
John Read	Andrew Hibbits
Nathan Woods	Chas. Teat
David Woods	William Teat
Henry Kerr	James Wright
Saml Kerr	James Wright Junr.
Josiah Wallace	Jacob Wright
Rich'd Pilfan	Wm. Shelton
Wm. Pilson	Saml Danney
Tomas Wherry	Wm. Cleveland
John Jameson	Neal M'Gleester
Saml. Jameson	Henry Wood
Thomas Craig	William Eads
John Craig	John Garland
Thos. Jameson	James Burton
William Noris	Archler Forbis
Chas. Whitlock	Wm. Forbis
Wm. Fretwell	John Bird Senr.
Charles Mills	Abner Bird
John Wherry	Bartlet Bird
Wm. Norris Senr.	Jessey Shelton
Gilbert Karr	Valentine Shelton
John Haggard	Geo. Shelton
John Bailey	Robert Shelton
David Henderson	Will. More
Thos. Anderson	Jas. M'tgomery
James Woodson	David Mt. Gomery
Thos. Jerman	Wm. Wright
Charles L. Lewis	Josiah Wood
Phil. Mazzei	John Wood
James Kerr	James Black
David Allen	John Norris

Wm. Irvin	Wm. Wallace
Andrew Wallace	John M'Collock
John M'Cord	John Allerander
[.....] Vice	John Wallace
Wm. Shelton	James Woods
William Wood	David M'Williams
Wm. Tamerlenson	John Danney
John Black	Jason Danney
John Block	Thos. Forton
Wm. Ramsey	Lack. Forton
James Ketson	John Forton
Jno. Davies	William Bayens
Saml Stockston	John Bayens
David Graves	Robt. Bayens
John Stockdon	John Woody
Alex. Ramsey	David Woody
John Dallens	John Tomson
John Branhem	Jas. Tomson
Ben. Davie	Wm. Tomson
Barnet Branhem	James Alex.
Joseph Anderson	John Alex.
Thos. Evans	Andrew Wright
Edward Nash	Bartlet Eads
Pryley Dallens	Wm. Fitz Patrick
Wm. Huntson	Robert Wright
Wm. Pilfar	Saml. Scot
Edwd. Johnson	Geo. Blair
Hugh Alex.	Willi Loveing
Jas. Briget	Wm. Walton
Isaac Harden	Jno. Johnston
Alex. M'Williams	Mask Leak
Alex. Jameson	John Wharton
Daniel Maupin	Benja. Maxwell
Saml. Bocock	Thos. Maxwell
Alex. M'Kenzie	Alex'r. Blair
Bond Burnet	Rich'd. Wood
Lac. Colley	John Wood

Wm. Bannel	James Wood
John Rogers	Peter Martain
Jno. Williams	Geo. Martain
James Harris	Chas. Martain
Bartlet Davies	Henry Woody
Masias Jones	Martain Woody
John Woods	Geo. Blair
Wm. M'Cord	Thos. Applin
James Read	Jas. Lyon
David Eperson	John Dawson.

DISSENTER'S PETITION.

Refd. to Comm. upon State of the Country

To the Honourable the President and House of Delegates

The Petition of the Dissenters from the Ecclesiastical establishment in the Commonwealth of Virginia—

Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioners, being in Common with the other Inhabitants of the Commonwealth, delivered from British oppression Rejoice in the prospect of having their freedom maintained and secured to them and posterity inviolate; the hopes of your Petitioners have been raised and confirmed by the Declaration of your Honourable House with Regard to equal Liberty, equal Liberty that invaluable Blessing; which though it be the Birth right of every good members of the State has been what your Petitioners have been Deprived of in that by Taxation their property hath been wrested from them and Given to those from whom they have received no equivalent your Petitioners therefore haveing long groaned under the Burden of an Ecclesiastical establishment beg leave to move your Honourable House that this as well as every other yoke may be Brok-

en and that the oppressed may go free that so every Religious Denomination being on a Level animosities may cease and that Christian forbearance Love and charity may be practised toward each other while the Legality Interferes only to support [.....] their Just Right and Equal Liberty.

And your Petitioners shall ever Pray—

William Garard	William Lucas	
William Seaman	Thomas Hart	
Morris Osman	Joseph Van Sardorius	
Andrew Morrison	Minister of the Gospel	
John Larason	Daniel Davis	
James Buckles	Edwd. Bernett	
Zachariah Williams	Isaac Taylor	
John Moor	Andrew McCown	37
Richard Downey	Gilbert McCown	38
Jno. Demoss	Jeremiah Browning	39
David Lewis Junr.	James Wilson	40
Rich'd. Marchant	James Campbell	41
Thos. Williams	Alex. Campbell	42
Jno. Hutton	David Miller	43
Uriah Willson	Robert Stuwart	44
Nathaniel Morrison	William Rusk	45
Jno. McFarling	David Miller	46
1 Jno. Hays	Duncn. Campbell	47
2 Job. Curtis Senr.	Hugh Lyle	48
3 James Leevie	Absalom Miller	49
4 Alexander Muckelhatten	Edwd. Dodd	50
5 Wm. James	George Jenkins	51
6 David Miles	Robert Lyle	52
7 Moses Lambard	John Davidson	53
8 Jonathan Summans	John Miller	54
9 David Booth	Richard Ross	55
10 John Summans	Wm. Glen	56
11 Geo. Cunningham	James Miller	57
12 John Watson	Nicholas Purtle	58

13 Jas. Seaton	James Heaton	59
14 John Vandivate	Robert Allen	60
15 David Lucas	Philip Greyson	61
16 Ben Suten	Jacob Price	62
17 Isaac Heaton	Gilbert Vandroof	63
18 Jacob Rush Ridgeway	64
19 Wm. Pule	Samson Kerr	65
20 John Moore	Thos. Russet	66
21 Nickles Vandivate	Wm. Berry	67
22 Ebenezer Sutton	Wm. Morton	68
23 Isaac Sharp	Charles Collins	69
24 Davie Saiard	Patrick Harogin	70
John Watson	25 Isaac Chenooth	71
John Cenith	26 Stephen Taylor	72
John Hays Senr	27 Timothy Taylor	73
Aaron Ditley	28 George Davidson	74
Robt. Boyd	29 Wm. Chemooth	75
Paul Vandervort	30 John Thompson	76
Joseph Chemoath	31 John Brobron	77
Jno James	32 John Loving	78
Thomas Wilkeson	33 Wm. McDonelson	79
Jno. Fulton	34 David Price	80
Wm. Boyer	35 Daniel Hortley	81
Elias Garard	36 Wm. Gray	82
Barnard Eagon Senr.	Henry Hodges	83
Wm. Litton	Absolam Chemooth	84
Nicholas Pariels	John Lowe	85
Davie Fancher	Florance McCarty	86
Dennie Onan	Leonard Kimble	87
Morris Connard	John Holt	88
Nicholas Vandervort Senr.	William White	89
Henry Bonard	Thos. Dorston	90
Thomas Riley	Joseph Bridges	91
Edward Lucas	George Bender	92
William Morgan	Henry Miller	93

PETITION OF THE GERMAN CONGREGATION* OF CULPEPER.

To The Hon'ble the President and Delegates of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of the German Congregation of the County of Culpeper. Sheweth:

That our Fathers who liv'd under an Arbitrary Prince in Germany, and the Germans being particularly invited by the on'ble William Penn. Senr. Esqr. Proprietor of the Province of Pennsylvania to settle his Province; which, with the faith they had in the Provincial Charters, given and granted from the British Crown, and that the Germans there, enjoyed freedom in the Exercise of Religion as well as other ways, and that they only supported their own Church and Poor. Our Fathers Ventured their Lives and Fortunes to come into a Land of Liberty (I. E.) from a European Egypt to an American Canaan, to enjoy those sweets of freedom, which God created for all men. They journeyed from Germany to London & and there agreed with a Captain, to land them and their Families in Pensylvania; but he prov'd false; and landed them against their Will and agreement in Virginia, and sold them for Servants.—

On our arrival, the loss of their Estates, and the snare the Captain had draw'd them in, was not equal with the loss they were at, in not understanding the English Tongue, which rendered it impossible to join in the worship of God; till they were free, and the Lord directed a Zoar for them, where they could exercise themselves in the Christian Religion as they were taught by their Parents in Europe.

Soon after they were gethered to the Plase where we now live, they Concluded to erect a Church and School-House. But 1st they being just free were to Poor, 2d the Laws of the Country was against them, & 3ly the Arbitrary Power

*The Lutheran congregation on the Robinson river in what is now Madison county. See *History of the Hebron Lutheran Church*, by Rev. W. P. Huddle, New Market, Va., 1908.

of Bishops. However, with sincere Prayer to God, that he would be Merciful to them, they petitioned the Governour & House of Burgesses, acquainted them with their Distress, and ask'd redress of their Grievance; which was so far granted that they had license to collect Money, build a Church, call a Minister, Worship God in a Congregation, & practice the Christian Religion as they were taught by their Parents in Europe.

Full of Love and Gratitude for this advance, and trusting that the Lord would further give his Grace to this Religious design; they send Three of the Congregation to Europe, who acquainted their Brethren there, with the Mercy they received from God, through the Act of Assembly and ask'd them for Assistance. The Reverend Doctor Tiegenhaken, Chaplain to the Royal House of England assisted them as much as was in his Power; sent Letters in favour of them, to our Bretheren in Germany, which caus'd that they rais'd a tolerable sum of German money, of the free Gifts of the Germans and other People, with which they build a Church, School-House, and purchased some land and Negroes as an Estate to the Church. But that Estate is not near sufficient to support the Church Expense and Minister.

And thro' our poverty we are oblig'd to pay Parochial Charges, as well as support our own Church, which still leaves many of us distress'd and as we are fellow-citizens in common, and still cannot understand the English Tongue and as we are now with our fellow citizens are oblig'd to bleed to Freedom, and Contribute our proportional part of the Expense of the War, and are not breaking from the establish'd Church, as do the common Discenders, we humbly pray, that we may hereafter be exempted from further payment of Parochial Charges, other then sufficient to support our own Church and Poor. And that our Ministers who are hitherto received from the German Lutheran North American Ministerii, under whose Direction we at present are; may have full right and privilege and administration of

their office with their Bretheren in Pennsylvania, or the establish'd Church Ministers in Virginia, so far as may extend to the Members of their own Church only; and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.

DISSENTERS PETITION, OCTOBER 6, 1776.

Petition.

To the Honourable the Speaker and House of Delegates of the Dissenters from the Ecclesiastical Establishment, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, humbly sheweth,

That your Petitioners being (in common with the other Inhabitants of this Commonwealth) delivered from British oppression, rejoice in the Prospect of having their Freedom secured and maintained to them and their Posterity, inviolate. The hopes of your petitioners have been raised and confirmed by the Declaration of your Honourable House with regard to equal Liberty. Equal Liberty! that invaluable Belongs, which though it be the Birthright of every good member of the State, is what your petitioners have been deprived of; in that, by taxation, their property hath been wrested from them, and given to those from whom they receive no equivalent.

Your Petitioners therefore, having long groaned under the Burden of an ecclesiastical Establishment, beg leave to move your Honourable House, that this, as well as every other yoke may be broken, and "that the oppressed may go free," that so every Religious Denomination being on a Level, animosities may cease, and the Christian Forbearance, Love and Charity may be practiced towards each other, while the Legislature interferes only to support them in their just Right and equal privileges.

And your petitioners shall ever pray

Subscribed by near 10000 Freemen [The signatures are, of course, too numerous to publish. Eckenrode (*Separation of Church and State*, p. 48), says that the names are largely

those of obscure people, and that many of the names are written in the same hand. The editor of this Magazine has also carefully examined the list and while finding that Dr. Eckenrode is correct in the use of obscure as indicating an almost entire absence of members of large land-holding and office-holding class, has noted a considerable number of names of families, of long standing and respectability. The great mass of the signers, however, were what have been since styled, "the plain people." In looking over the signatures to these petitions and observing to what a great extent there is an absence of wealth, political influence and distinguished birth, one feels surprised at the great success of the party to which the signers belonged. This success was so great in utterly overthrowing the religious establishment and all of its vested rights, that it seems remarkable that this very radical party did not carry its triumph farther and that it was not until after seventy-five years that universal suffrage was won. It would appear that the conservative party was stronger than their stand on the question of religion would indicate. In the past men were usually more interested in their religions than in political institutions; but in Virginia there was a party, nine-tenths of whose members were, nominally at least attached to the established church, making a feeble defence against assaults on their church, yet holding fast for seventy-five years against all attacks, the form of government they had organized in 1776.]

(TO BE CONTINUED)